



Issue 52
Summer 2011



Speen and North Dean News



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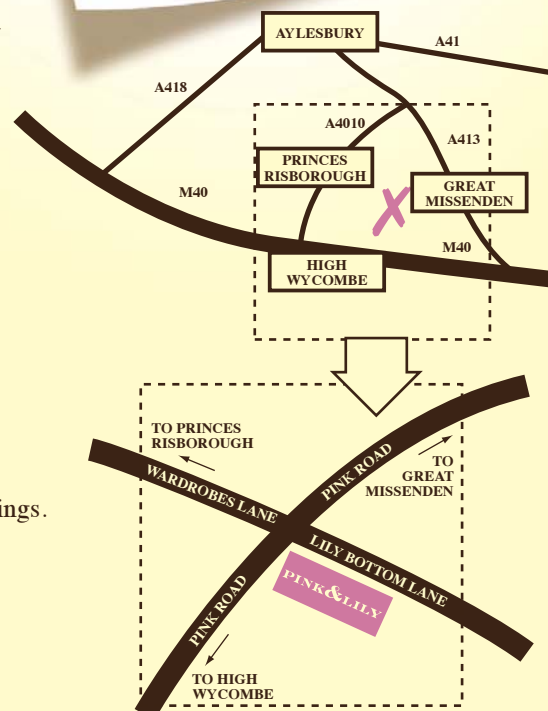


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Contents

What's On	4
Letter from the Editor	5
Speen and North Dean Toddler Group	6
Speen Pre-School	7
Speen School and PTA	8
Speen Fun Day	9
The Ridgeway Walk 3	10
North Dean arrival	11
Speen Fete	13
Speen Playing Fields	14
Speen Arts & Crafts Fair	15
Photographic competition winners	15
Speen Marquee	16
Speen Heritage Group	16
Speen Church	17
Speen Festival 2011	19
Speen Adventurers	20
Speen WI	25
Down on the Farm	26
Breakfast on the Hill	26
Wildlife Watch	31
Short story	32
Letter from Speen School	33
North Dean Fete	34
Letters to the Editor	35
District Council News	36
County Council News	37
Who's Who	38

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A new production editor is required from January 2012 and also a new editor.

If you are interested in either role or perhaps would like to take on both roles (as was the case until the recent past) please email editor.sndn@speenbucks.org.uk

NEXT EDITION

Copy for the next edition (53) is due by Friday 21st October.

The planned publication date is mid November. Please send photos separately from text, together with captions and a consent form (download from the SNDN website on the village web). Send to editor.sndn@speenbucks.org.uk.

Index of Advertisers

Alan Tucker	18
Alchemille	23
Beechdean Farmhouse	39
C.G. Tree & Garden Services	29
Chiltern House Partnership	28
Clare Foundation	5
Coles & Blackwell	27
David Marchant	24
Deborah Lewis	28
Footcare	4
Foursquare Land Limited	33
Fraser Morgan School of Dancing	12
Hughenden Builders	12
Ian Gray	24
JML Training & Consultancy	22
JNP	40
John Bishop	35
Judith A Newenham	18
Kevin Mills	12
LJM Electrical	12
M.R. Collins	29
MWH Interiors Limited	22
Nelson Electrical Services	24
Nick Higgins	4
Nicki Thomas Web Design	18
Paul Newman Limited	30
Pickels Farm	28
Pink & Lily	2
PK-Inprint Ltd	11
Speen Stores	24
Springline Cars	7
Sue Fryer	7
Taps UK	18
The Old Plow	33
T.J. Day	29
TopDogs	29

Month	Event	Where	Contact
August			
Wednesday 24 th	Speen Pub Lunch	KW4 12 noon	Gloria Holmes 488420
Saturday 27 th	Marquee erection	Speen Playing Field 9.30 am	Greg Cook 488939
September			
Thursday 5 th	WI. Colour in your home	Speen Village Hall 1.15 pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Monday 5 th	Lacey Green Parish Council	L Green Village Hall 7.30 pm	Sue Griffiths 01844 342685
Wednesday 7 th	MPS (RAF Hendon)	Harrow, Hughenden	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday 8 th -18 th	Speen Festival	Speen Marquee and village	Kate Laughton 488548
Friday 16 th	Race Night	N Dean Village Hall, 8.00 pm	Jan Wicks 07802 476712
Wednesday 29 th	WI Gardener's Club	Flower Arranging, 8.00 pm	Daphne Westray 488742
October			
Monday 3 rd	Lacey Green Parish Council	Speen Village Hall 7.30 pm	Sue Griffiths 01844 342685
Wednesday 5 th	MPS	Black Horse, L Green 8.30 pm	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday 6 th	WI. Crime Squad	Speen Village Hall, 7.45 pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Wednesday 12 th	Village Theatre, 'Fast Women'	North Dean Village Hall	Julie White 562311
November			
Wednesday 2 nd	MPS	The Whip, L Green, 8.30 pm	Graham Peart 488327
Thursday 3 rd	WI. Annual Meeting	Speen Village Hall, 7.45 pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Friday 4 th	North Dean Fireworks	North Dean	Andrew Howard 562775
Saturday 5 th	Speen Bonfire Night	Speen Playing Field, 6.00 pm	Christian Nagele 488247
Monday 7 th	Lacey Green Parish Council	L Green Village Hall, 7.30 pm	Sue Griffiths 01844 342685
December			
Thursday 1 st	WI. Musical entertainment	Speen Village Hall 7.15 pm	Barbara Collett 488348
Monday 5 th	Lacey Green Parish Council	Speen Village Hall, 7.30 pm	Sue Griffiths 01844 342685
Wednesday 7 th	MPS	Old Plow (supper), Speen	Graham Peart 488327
Saturday 10 th	Christmas Tree/Carols	Speen Playing Field	Lesley Thomas-Davies 488851 Debbie Tilt 488733
Monday 19 th	Carol Concert	North Dean Village Hall	Julie White 562311

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Hello and a warm welcome to the 52nd issue of the Speen and North Dean News. My name is Laura Blundell and I am taking on the role of the second youth editor for the magazine.



I am 15 years old, in year 10 at Berkhamsted School. I have lived in Speen all of my life, making it a very special place to me, so being involved in this long-established magazine as position of editor is a great honour.

In this copy of the magazine there is news of the carnival-themed fete, photos of the villages, word of events at Speen Baptist Church and much, much more. Preparation is well under way for the Speen Festival and I am sure that all events will be enjoyed by every generation.

We have been fortunate to have some glorious sunny days (and of course the odd rainy days, for it would not be a true British summer without them) for the annual summer events held in Speen and North Dean and both villages have really made the most of it! Flicking through this edition you will see the events that have taken place, and will hopefully remember them and

look back and smile at the wonderful summer memories as the holidays draw to a close.

Thank you for the opportunity to be youth editor of this magazine.

Laura Blundell

Speen & North Dean News Photographic Competition Prize Winners

Turn to page 15 to see the prize-winning photographs.

Welcome Packs

The village 'Good Neighbours' scheme was set up many years ago and is now run by Christine Oliver.

One service is to provide new residents with a Welcome Pack of village information. If you know of someone new to the village please phone Christine (488409) or email (christineoliver99@btinternet.com).



THE ONLY THING WE'RE MISSING IS YOU!

The Clare Foundation, your local charity hub, is urgently seeking volunteers.

Whether this is your first time volunteering, or you're a seasoned campaigner, it doesn't matter. We need people willing to commit just a few hours a week on a regular basis, to support our administration services.

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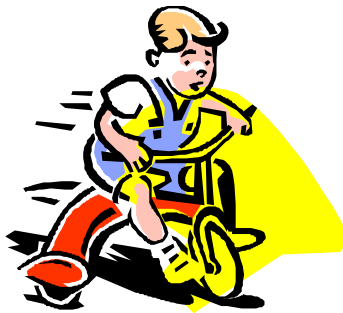
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Speen and North Dean Toddler Group

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*"Thank you for making me feel so welcome as a new mum
and new to the area" – a typical comment received!*

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THANK YOU!

Hope to see you soon!

Speen Pre-School – Another School Year Comes to an End

The last term has seen lots of activities for our Pre-School children. We have been gardening outside the Village Hall with our three teams of children each planting a pot of herbs and vegetables. We have been baking cakes and were visited by several nosy horses that said hello. We now buy our snacks from the village shop thus enhancing community links and also providing the opportunity for two children each week to go and 'do the shopping'. Our thanks to Gloria Holmes for bringing the gorgeous Ribbon for a visit and to



Tim Vale who has been helping us over the past few weeks. The children also had an enjoyable day at 'big' school joining the older children and staff in the SpeenFest activities.

Our main event of the term was Sports Day where we managed to dodge the showers and spent a fun morning watching the children enjoy traditional events such as the egg and spoon race. Everyone received a "winners" medal and the event was followed by a picnic lunch for the children and a "Pimms & Ploughman's" for the spectators, which raised over £90.



We now have a full team of staff with two recent recruits adding to the Pre-School in terms of both previous experience and qualifications. We look forward to using these skills in the new year, combined with those of the rest of our team who have supported the school so well during a challenging year. As our school year draws to a close we say a fond goodbye to our children who are heading off to school or pastures new in September.

We take children from age two upwards and still have a few spaces available for September. Please contact me for an application form whilst Pre-school is closed over the summer holidays.

A voluntary committee manages Speen Pre-School and although we are fortunate in that most positions have been filled for the coming year if anyone is interested in joining the committee we still have vacancies for a Personnel Officer and are also looking for someone to co-ordinate our many fundraising activities. You do not have to have children at the Pre-School to volunteer and you can take on as much or as little as you like. Please contact me if you can help to make a difference.

Clare Morris
Chair
488553

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News from Speen School and its PTA

Well, what a summer it has been; dancing has been at the heart of it with Speen School children putting on their dancing shoes (black plimsolls) at every opportunity and in front of ever increasing audiences.

The year 2 children dosey doe'd admirably at Hamilton School country dancing evening in Wycombe; parents tried their best to keep up - reasonably successfully, even some toddlers joined in. The weather was fine and a fantastic evening was had by all.

The children's dancing skills were further displayed at the Princes Risborough Gym and Dance festival showcasing Speen School children performing the Bird Princess Dance and a superb gym display, thankfully their cartwheeling on stage was accurate and there were no casualties! At Speen Fete the maypole dancing was simply delightful - a flawless performance with no one getting tied up in knots, both literally and metaphorically speaking.

A trip to London allowed the children to sit back and enjoy watching others perform as they were treated to a London Philharmonic Orchestral performance in the Royal Festival Hall. (See page 33.)

For three days this term we made fabulous use of the marquee on the school grounds as Speen School hosted Speen School Fest. Three other schools and the Pre-School came along to join in an extravaganza of dancing, singing, craft and African drumming, led admirably by Kate Laughton and Carolyn Sharma. A huge thank you to all those in the village that helped make the three days possible.

Fortunately, for all those on the ball committee,



most of the marquee decorations were done for them as the craft activities were themed around this year's ball - Arabian nights. And what a wonderful evening it was. Parents and friends of the school danced the night away having feasted on sumptuous Middle Eastern Food. The ball raised an amazing £8,600 for the school. Thank



you to all who attended and all those who had to bear the noise late into the night so graciously! The money raised will be used to fund a new outdoor shaded seating area where the children can both relax at break times and have outdoor story time.



The extension at the school is well underway and ahead of schedule! We look forward to a grand opening of the new classroom in September.

As well as raising money for the school, the children supported action medical research by hosting a Bring a Bear Picnic in the playground. It was wonderful to welcome so many families and pre-school families to the event.

And finally . . . Residents living along Flowers Bottom Lane who may venture out of their houses around 8.30am and 3pm will be delighted to know that the school has plans afoot to run a scooter training course - phew!

Speen Fun Day

The Speen Fun Day was a huge success. It was excellent weather for some fantastic fun.

There were loads of wacky races such as Put Out the Fire, the wheelbarrow race, The Fat Royal Wedding and carrying a tray with cups of water. This was my favourite race because everyone was laughing and kept tripping over other people's feet.

There was a delicious hog roast followed by a bouncy castle and, of course, kiddy curling.

It was one of the best days I've had in Speen so far! What was even better was that my team, the Reds, won!

Hannah Dent

Will Laing, aged 6, of Flowers Bottom was very proud to be awarded the Speen Fun Day Kiddie Kurling Kup for being hurled over 100 feet twice on his debut performance.



He said "I was a bit scared at first, and it was very cold getting sprayed with water, but it was very exciting and I loved it. I am going to polish my cup every day and am going to try to win it again next year by going even further - maybe even as far as the shop!"



The beautiful Chiltern Hills

The Ridgeway – Walk 3 – Easter 2011

The third leg of our journey begins at the base of Lodge Hill on the Saunderton/Bledlow Ridge borders. It's a gloriously warm day when we start off and in fact, at 25 degrees, it's probably a bit too hot for this type of walking. Never-the-less, we have plenty of food and drink to sustain us. We also have the company of our best friend Diane for this leg of the journey, which means we've been able to benefit from the use of two vehicles - thus enabling a longer stretch of the Ridgeway to be covered - yippee. We park one vehicle at the well known spot of Coombe Hill and drive off to our starting point at Lodge Hill.

With our over excited Jack Russell, Buster, chomping at the bit, we set off slowly so as not to over exert ourselves in the heat. The warm sunshine and clear blue sky really adds something a bit special to the day. As we cross the railway line we can see the windmill at Loosley Row in the far distance and the amazing bright yellow of the fields of rapeseed stretching before us. The golden flowers of the rapeseed flax are so bright to the point of almost dazzling us. As we approach the footpath we begin to notice the fragrance coming from the rapeseed flowers which conjures up childhood memories for me. The contrast of the blue of the sky and the gold of the flowers is a photo opportunity not to be missed (see front



Julie in the rapeseed field

cover). Buster is going wild at this point - racing between the stems and investigating the undergrowth. The air is perfectly still and the gentle

singing of the larks can be heard overhead - a perfect moment of peace and tranquillity.

It's not long before we feel the need to rest in the shade for a cool drink - having covered just a few short miles! Perhaps our hopes of covering ten to twelve miles today were a bit ambitious given the weather conditions? We set off again shortly after, and find ourselves in Brush Hill Nature Reserve which is a beautiful, natural stretch of the Chilterns running above the Upper Icknield Way and is crossed by the Ridgeway. It covers 30 acres and combines ancient beech woodland with chalk grasslands and has such an abundance of late spring flowers - including cowslips and bluebells.



Cowslips



Buster in the bluebells

With the heat of the midday sun beating down upon us, it's no wonder that we take regular stops for food and drink. Our picnic spot at Whiteleaf Hill has the most spectacular views of the entire walk to date. In the hazy distance, we can see across to the Cotswolds and the Berkshire Downs. We set off again and soon find ourselves in yet another nature reserve - Grangelands and Pulpit Hill - which is north east of Lower Cadsden. Another rich mix of grassland and woodland with yet more stunning views. We learned that there are remains of an ancient hill fort at Pulpit Hill, but the evidence of its existence are well hidden.



View from Whiteleaf Hill

My attention was once again drawn to the beauty of the surrounding flora and the sheer abundance of flowering plants and trees at this time of year. My particular favourite was the large spiked flower of the horse chestnut, with its almost festive 'Christmas tree' like shape.

Our next stretch takes us along the Cradle footpath, heading towards the Prime Minister's country residence of Chequers and we can see Waddesdon and Aylesbury in the distance. The tuneful birdsong of the chiffchaff, sparrow and blackbird has been serenading us all day long. As much as we have enjoyed the day, we are relieved to know



Horsechestnut flower

that we are on the homeward leg of the journey and our final pit stop of afternoon tea and cake is taken in the cool shade of an ancient oak tree with Chequers just visible in the distance (see front cover). It's been noticeable how happy Buster has been to rest with us in the shade on this glorious sunny day - perhaps dogs have some sense after all?

The very last stretch is a steep climb through the woods to Coombe Hill (hardly the easiest part of the walk to finish up with - ugh!), where we have parked our second vehicle. It's in these woods we find the beautiful and strong smelling flowers of wild garlic. Buster thinks it smells like dinner and has a merry time scuttling through the vegetation. The walk has come to an end and we are relieved to take the weight off of our weary legs at the top of Coombe Hill and soak up yet more far reaching views.



Wild garlic



Buster at Coombe Hill

My overriding memory of this walk will be one of clear blue skies, warm sunshine and the delight of so many beautiful views from the tops of the fantastic Chiltern Hills. We may not have covered the twelve miles we had hoped, but we were happy with the modest seven miles which, under the circumstances, wasn't bad going.

Julie White



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Birth Announcement

Natalia and Patrick Hughes-Duque
Born on 3rd June 2011 at 10.20am



On a clear sunny morning Natalia and Patrick were welcomed to this world by their parents Bryn and Adriana Hughes. The babies had healthy weights of 5.5 and 6 pounds respectively, and scored a perfect 10 out of 10 in their newborn 'Apgar' assessments - their first achievements at one minute of age made their parents very proud! Grandparents, aunts and uncles came from far to celebrate the twins' arrival and support the newly-formed family.



Patrick and Natalia went home after only 36 hours in hospital due to good health - and good behaviour! Not long after, they ventured out in their pram along North Dean. They received a warm welcome from village residents who promptly came out to meet them, or stopped along Speen Road in their cars to say hello. The numerous cards, thoughtful presents and timely visits from North Deaners were evidence to the friendly and caring atmosphere by which Natalia and Patrick are lucky to be surrounded. This warmth was also evident in their first pub outing - at only two weeks old - to the King William IV, where they received affection and good wishes from friends in Speen.

The future looks bright for Patrick and Natalia. We look forward to seeing them grow and thrive in the beautiful Buckinghamshire countryside with their friends from North Dean and Speen.

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Speen Fete

Thanks to the team on the fete committee for their planning and execution of yet another fun-packed and highly entertaining Fete, and to all of you in the village who took a turn to help fleece the punters out of their life savings, all in the name of charity, thank you, without whom we wouldn't have a fete.



The maypole dance from Speen School was an absolute delight to watch and a tradition that I hope never dies; thanks to Mrs Nayna and the children for their wonderful performance. We also had a plethora of games, side shows, and stalls, a fantastic craft display, with all the local traditional crafts in beautiful colours and styles to inspire you, a plant stall that will soon have our gardens transformed into the Chelsea Flower Show, and the ever wonderful WI refreshment

Last year we did something for the girlies, men, uniforms and a large chopper, sorry Puma, so this year it was only fair that we did something for the guys and boy did they love it. I have never seen so many dads, granddads and sons around the ring with grins on their faces, watching the female dancers in sequined skimpy costumes shaking their booties, African dancers with rotating hips and bongos; then there was the testosterone fuelled tug of war, with lots of kicking of heels, baying and grunting (and that was just the spectators);



sadly however, Speen first team, captained by the great tugger Mr Julian Mathews, were just pipped at the post by Speen's second team, a mixed bag of stray men rounded up from the field at the very last minute, as Hampden, having seen the competition, bolted for the hills. After a managerial discussion I understand

the reason for the loss was the wrong kind of shoes!! Never mind boys, practise, practise, practise, bring the right shoes and blow us away next year. Then there was the bungee run which I'm sure was fixed, as my first attempt had me pinging back faster than a space shuttle re-entering the earth's atmosphere and my second attempt, yes, I am that stupid, was even more embarrassing! This was surely a game for men.



area that should sport a government health warning for its yumminess and calorific value; don't stop ladies, we love you.

So once again the hustle and bustle on the field is ended, the feathers have flown away, the drums have stopped playing, the rats have scurried off to their hut, the men have stopped beating their chests and the marquee has been put to bed, until 2012, when the fun starts all over again, but for now there is peace across our fair playing field.



Just a few people to thank for helping the day happen: Great Hampden for donating their newly acquired marquee to the performers, the KW4 for feeding all the performers on the house and providing hospitality to all the helpers over the week, to all the companies who advertised and donated gifts and to my wonderful team whom

without their support I would be sitting at home drinking wine, getting fat and lazy, and being thoroughly miserable. See you all next year. It's better than joining a gym!!

Amanda Dobbs

Speen Fete 2011

Children's Competitions

Prize Winners - Carnival theme

Colouring Competition:

Over 5 yrs: Kylie Woodward
Thomas Hull

5 and under: Evie Lucas
Hugh Podmore

Carnival Mask: Emily O'Brien

Fancy Dress: 1st Elizabeth Podmore
2nd Thomas Hull

CONGRATULATIONS!
Thanks to all who took part

Thanks to Alison from Speen Stores for
judging and presenting the prizes

laughter, greatly enjoyed too. Our thanks go to the Fun Day team of organisers for another splendid day, and most importantly to all those who turned up to support the event - as noisy participants and equally noisy spectators.

Fete day on 9th July also enjoyed good weather - for most of the day. The sporadic rain showers did not deter villagers and visitors from enjoying this year's carnival themed event. The main arena was able to host dancers, High Wycombe Brass Band, African drummers and the Speen School children once again delighted with their country dancing, this year featuring Maypole dancing. Around the arena, visitors could enjoy a wide variety of activities from pony rides, bungee runs, coconut shy, tombola etc. The day ended in a highly competitive tug of war, both up and down the field and cross ways.

Sunday 10th July dawned with glorious sunshine, and we were able to enjoy the well attended Arts and Crafts Fair.

Coming up in September, the Playing Field and Dan Ridgley's Field are hosting various aspects of the Speen Festival - more details are available on page 19, the festival website or on the booking forms available from the village shop. Please would villagers be aware of the extra traffic in and around the village; in particular on the field during the setting up of the various events of the festival. The organisers of the festival and organisers of other events do take great care to ensure there is minimal disruption to the normal use of the playing field.

Once again a very big thank you to the team of volunteers and village supporters who assist with the maintenance of the fields and equipment; much of the work is only noticed when time and resources have prevented work being done! None of the events and activities that take place could happen without the support of the host of groups, clubs and individuals who give their time so generously - so thank you to all those unsung heroes and heroines that are part of making Speen.

If you have any comments or suggestions on the running of the Playing Fields, please do get in contact directly - we welcome all suggestions; alternatively do come and join us and help with the organisation, decisions and fund-raising needed to maintain the Playing Fields.

A big thank you also to all the villagers who annually buy tickets for the Village Lottery. The Draw provides a substantial part of the money needed to maintain the fields. If you're new to the village or don't have any tickets, please contact Judith Newenham (488687) who will arrange for a collector to call.

Liz Andrews and Andy Thompson

Speen Playing Fields Report, Summer 2011

Speen Playing Fields have had a busy few months hosting both Fun Day and Fete - both events being key dates in Speen's calendar. A very big thank you to villagers, Speen supporters, committee members and the host of Speen groups and individuals who help to make these events so memorable.

Fun Day 'weekend' started on a very damp evening with the skiffle band "Kick N Rush" entertaining those brave enough to venture out on such an unseasonable night. The band was a mix of music (played on a variety of instruments from the easily recognisable to the more unusual), jokes and anecdotal stories. An enjoyable, but long and wet evening.

The following day dawned, dry and sunny, allowing the participants of the 2011 Fun Day "Big Fat Royal Wedding" to enjoy an afternoon of games, hilarity, humiliation, without cagoules and umbrellas. The Fun Day organisers had put together a range of meticulously planned games (including the popular Kiddie Kurling) that entire families were able to participate in, and all enjoyed themselves! Competition was fierce between the rival street teams of Speen and North Dean with the Red team emerging as the final victor. The event was well supported by many families of Speen, and judging by the smiles and

Speen Arts & Crafts Fair

On Sunday 10th July the Speen Group (as we are now called) held their 2nd Charity Arts & Crafts Fair. We had a number of new exhibitors who enjoyed the friendly and bustling atmosphere together with some old faces. Our lovely new marquee looked jolly and inviting and all of our exhibitors are keen to return and enjoy the event again. Unfortunately numbers of visitors were somewhat down, but we were pleased that our profit was actually more than last year.



Special thanks need to go to Maureen Laing and Ann James who make all of the gifts they sell themselves and donate every penny they make to our Charity. This year they contributed over a third of the profit. We will be holding the event at the

same time next year and welcome any feedback from our visitors. If you know of any artisans who would like to attend please let us know. We hope there will be some opportunities for hands-on making next time.

The Speen Group are busy planning our Christmas Market on 11th & 12th November at the King William and have been beginning to plan our events for next year which will include our Ladies Lunch, Arts & Crafts Fair and an Evening Event with entertainment in the Autumn. Watch this space!

We would like to thank the many people from Speen who turned out for a second day on 10th July to support and in some cases assist us - without you we really wouldn't be able to keep going and make a meaningful donation to each of our hospices.

Christine Symondson



Speen & North Dean News Photographic Competition Prize Winners

Theme – My Hobbies/Interests

Age – 7 to 15 years

Judge – Miss Walton (photography teacher at Wycombe High School)

Congratulations!



1st Prize – Laura Vale (age 13)
Interest: Playing my ukelele



2nd Prize – Hannah Cox (age 14)
Markets of Marrakesh
Interest: Travel and shopping



3rd Prize – Jonny Crossley (age 12)
Interest: Lizards

Speen Marquee

By the time you read this our village owned marquee will have been used for Fun Day, School activities, the PTA Ball, Speen Fete, the SSG Craft Fair and North Dean Fete. It will be in heavy use over three weeks in September in support of Speen Festival. How would these village events run without it!



Men at work

The marquee suffered some accidental damage during one hiring. As it is too expensive to take out insurance cover for this sort of risk it confirms the need to have a reserve fund based on income from hirings.

We have bought a stake puller (in addition to the Wacker which knocks them in) to make it easier for our volunteer erectors. So we hope that this will encourage more to join in. If Amanda can do it so can you!!

John Holmes

Speen Heritage Group

The aim of the Group is to protect, preserve and promote features of the heritage of Speen. If you would like to join us, please contact Peter Symonds (488016).

A number of projects are being considered and two are already underway.

1. Recording people's memories of times past - we call that the Oral History project.

If you would like to take part, please contact David Flynn (488510).

2. Collecting photographs of the 10 young men whose names appear on the World War 1 memorial at the Chapel.

Apart from individual portraits, they might appear in group photos of the Speen Brass Band or the Speen Cricket Club.

We have portraits of Archie ("Artie") Bristow and Edward Lester Janes. Please contact Clive Rainbow (488658) if you have any photos of: Harry Robert Burrows; Harry Dean; Sidney Gibbons; his brother, William Gibbons; Frank Randall; John Rixon; Harold ("Harry") Frank Saunders or Norman Cyril Simmonds.



A HISTORY OF SPEEN



The "Leaves of Time" was first published in 2000 as part of Speen's Millennium Celebrations and is a history of the village and its inhabitants since records began. It records the building of Speen Chapel as well as the birth of our school, the origins of the 'bodger' and Speen's brush with the Second World War! It is a fascinating account of the self-reliance of the inhabitants of this remote hilltop village.

Updated in 2007, the current edition records recent events in the village such as the school's 40th birthday, the opening of the children's bike park, the numerous S.S.G.'s fundraising events and of course the biennial SPEEN FESTIVAL with its art and photographic exhibitions, plays and musicals. All proceeds of the sale of the books go toward Speen Heritage Group.

THE LEAVES OF TIME is available from Speen Stores and by email from
symonds@speen10.freemove.co.uk



As many of you will know we are in a period of "interregnum" which means that we are without a full-time pastor. While it was immensely sad to say goodbye to Andy and Carolyn Gower after a tremendous 14 years when the church truly flourished in our community and the wider world, this time has given the fellowship the opportunity to reflect upon its vision, mission and values and prepare the church for the next chapter in its development. We hope to publish our new vision and mission shortly and this will be integral to our search to find a new pastor who best suits the plans which we believe God has for Speen Church.

The interregnum has also enabled the fellowship to take the weight of Andy's work and develop as a consequence. A great example was the Passion Play which dramatized the last days of Jesus in Jerusalem, his Crucifixion and Resurrection. The Play, enacted on the Playing Fields on Good Friday and at the Church on Easter Sunday brought these sad and yet ultimately joyous events to life in a stark and new light, each scene linked by a familiar and yet strangely poignant songs from our modern pop culture.

Our outreach work has also continued unabated. Members of the Church visited the Agape mission in Hyderabad, India, in February to see the fantastic work that is being performed with some of the world's poorest and ostracized people. The school is thriving, offering education and proper meals to children who would otherwise be breaking up rocks for road building from the age of 5. Many of you have contributed to this amazing project and this is making a huge difference so please accept our heartfelt thanks.

We also continue to support our link missionary Carol Turner in Afghanistan. As some of you will know, Carol is a trained midwife who delivers care to the Hazara tribeswomen who are regarded as second class citizens by mainstream Afghans. They are denied the most basic of pre- and post-natal care and Carol is succeeding in righting this wrong, training local people in midwifery skills so that the scale of her project can be grown.

In July, we were delighted to welcome home our very own Moira Mclure as she took a well earned break from her work in Ethiopia. Many of you will know Moira, but for those who don't, she lived for many years in North Dean and came to faith at Speen Church. For the past four years she has been working for Food for the Hungry in

Ethiopia, bringing hope and care to the poor of the south Gondar region in the north of the country. Moira is a trained healthcare worker and felt a true calling from God to work among the poor, especially those whose lives have been devastated by HIV/Aids.

On a more local basis, we have participated actively in the 24/7 prayer initiative where members take it in turn to pray for Speen and the wider Wycombe community throughout one entire day each month.

We wish everyone a happy and safe summer and look forward to sharing more of our plans for the Church as these take shape over the next few months.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Service at North Dean Village hall followed by a BBQ on 4th September to which everyone is cordially invited (bring a burger).
- Christmas Eve carols by candlelight as usual among many other activities.

Alastair Blundell

Speen Church Passion Play

My husband first saw the Manchester Passion Play, presented by Keith Allen on the BBC in 2006. He was struck by the use of secular songs made famous by Manchester singers and bands. As his involvement with Speen church grew, especially in the worship band, the thought to do something similar in Speen kept nagging away. Eventually he spoke it out, and the time seemed right to put thought into action which is where a pushy (I prefer the term supportive!) wife came into play.

Towards the end of January we firstly approached the many teens that are part of the Speen Church fellowship, thinking that if we had their support then it was in the parameters of achievable. Yes, they were certainly up for it. We then went to the church leadership and membership and they too were behind the concept. Once we were given the go ahead, the realisation of the scale of what we were attempting to put into action dawned on us. We not only required actors and actresses, but also a script, the music, scenery, sound systems etc. On the whole not too difficult, but as we wanted to present the play in the open air it involved a lot of

Continued on page 25 . . .

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Your Guide to Speen Festival 2011

All those into Shakespeare, or keen to give it a try should run to book up for **The Dreaming** (Thurs 8, Fri 9 and Sat 10 Sept), a superb musical, based on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, with music by Howard Goodall and lyrics by Charles Hart. Updated to just before the start of the First World War, the action takes place in a small hilltop village surrounded by ancient and mysterious woodland - in fact a place not unlike Speen! This production is part of the RSC Open Stages Project.

Wild Workshop Saturday (10 Sept) offers **Wild About Craft** - traditional craft workshops for **younger children** in the Village Hall from 10-4pm (need to book!). Bring a picnic to **Surviving in Ridgley's Field** (admission free) where local survival experts and outdoor craft enthusiasts will put **older children** (but also whoever else turns up!) through their paces - experimenting with shelter building and basic bush-craft skills: activities tailored to suit participants on the day. Finally, you can polish your photographic skills at the **Photo Shoot and Exhibition** - expert advice, professional kit and props supplied; you just book 15 minutes of our 'Studio' to use as you like. Come and release your inner David Bailey!

Whatever your taste there is something to suit you. Why not tickle your taste buds at the **Food Festival** (Sun 11), listen to stunning music from one of the UK's top chamber choirs **The Elysian Singers** (Mon 12,) make your way to the ever-popular **Jazz Concert** (Wed 14) or a bit of relaxed

Friday Folk (Fri 16).

For those of all ages into **music and big free events** you must come to our grand festival finale **Prom in the Playing Field** (Sun 18, 3pm) featuring a huge Symphony Orchestra, starry soloists and some hit numbers from the classics and film. Bring a picnic, relax and enjoy.

For children under 10 look out for: **Young Speen Goes Wild** (Tues 13 after school) for fun hands-on wildlife activities and catch the return of the riotous theatre company Teatro Unfortunato with a **Mad Hatter's Tea Party** for little ones (morning of Sat 17).

For ages 6-18: test your biking skills to the limit with our new biking challenges in the **Speen Bike Park Challenge** (Sat 17). Three age groups will compete for the coveted awards and prizes.



Jack and The Woodlanders from the cast of The Dreaming

For **students and adults** needing a bit of intellectual stimulus join us for **Echoes of Old Village Life** (Sun 11) and **Wild about Speen** (Tues 13) or **Science Matters** (Thurs 15) a lively, mind-expanding debate on topical science issues. The panel chaired by Speen villager, Prof Barry Stickings, will include the editor of New Scientist,

Roger Highfield, and the science writer, John Emsley.

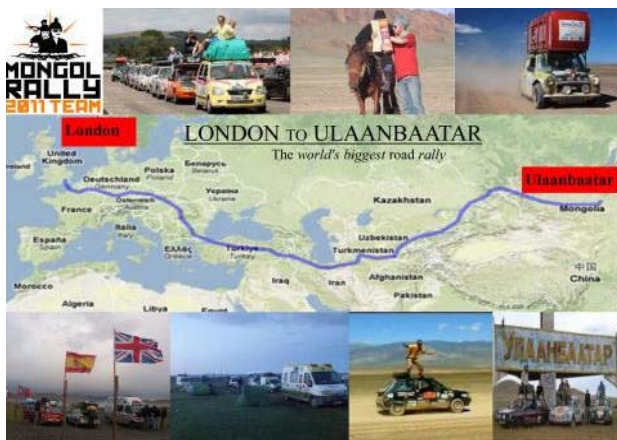
Youngsters (13+) and students can sign up for our **Youth Takeover** (Fri 16). If they offer to take part (and can prove their talent!), they get in free! Youth Takeover Workshops are planned for the end of the summer holidays - including a free day-long workshop with artist Stu McClellan www.stumclellan.co.uk on Thursday 1 Sept. Check noticeboards and Festival website for details of how to take part.

Don't delay, tickets going fast!
Call the Box Office today on 01494 488315
or download a booking form from
www.speenfestival.org

Two intrepid Speen adventurers are set to undertake Good luck to them both

To UlaanBataar and Beyond!

My name is Will Collier, a local lad from Speen , and this summer I am undertaking one of the most gruelling tasks in the world - The Mongol Rally - with 3 friends from Nottingham University. By the time you are reading this we will already have left the UK and will be embarking on a 16,000km drive to UlaanBaatar, the capital of Mongolia, crossing numerous countries including Czech Republic, Turkey, Iran,



Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, across the Gobi Desert and finally finishing in UlaanBaatar. We are hoping to achieve this in just 6 weeks in the type of car you wouldn't normally associate with this sort of journey, a 1.2L Fiat Doblo or "Dobby", all in aid of two fantastic charities. We will be traversing mountains, crossing deserts (hoping our water and fuel supplies will last until the next settlement), fighting off bandits and bears all whilst camping and eating cans of baked beans. When (if) we get there, our faithful steed is then cleaned up and auctioned off to locals with all proceeds going to our charities - then all we have to do is get back home. To emphasise how tough this is, only half the route is actually mapped, heat will be hitting 50 degrees in the day, freezing at night, and just a third of the route is on tarmac roads. There is no back-up support at all so if we get stuck/ arrested/ breakdown it will be up to us to get ourselves out of trouble. This is definitely NOT a Top Gear experience - after all, what type of challenge would this be if someone was around to bail us out every time we got into difficulties.

The two charities we are raising money for are Help for Heroes, providing fantastic support to traumatised and injured British forces returning

from the horrors of war and The Christina Noble Children's Foundation, who seek to protect children in Mongolia and Vietnam at risk of economic and sexual exploitation, trafficking and slavery.

You may have already heard about our trip through the notice in Speen Stores or from the leaflets we have distributed around the village. Local support has been fantastic in supplying us with much needed supplies, equipment and advice, and in donations to the two charities, so we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been so supportive. Special mention must go to Martyn Sims for his invaluable advice and providing much-needed equipment, to Speen Stores for their support, and to Mark Wengler for putting us in contact with Jon Taylor of HUGHENDEN AUTOS who has been fantastically enthusiastic and generous with his time and expertise, beefing up "Dobby" for the challenge ahead and providing some very useful equipment, information and advice.

Obviously we are embarking on a fabulous adventure but it is important to stress that we have funded all the costs associated in purchasing the car, travel expenses and general kit, so every penny we raise in donations goes directly to Help for Heroes and The Christina Noble Children's Foundation. We have been very busy raising funds for the two charities through our on-line fundraising at www.justgiving.com/team-trekkers and www.justgiving.com/team-tekkers) and have been rattling buckets in cities around the county.

If you want to follow us on our adventure then you can do so through our blog on our website www.trekkerswithtekkers.co.uk and I hope to make it back to Speen in time to tell you all about The Mongol Rally in the next edition of Speen and North Dean News.



ke separate, and very different, hazardous journeys
and to their team mates

The Atlantic 4: Rowing Challenge

In December 2011 I will be part of a four man crew attempting to row 2,552 nautical miles (2,935 regular miles) across the Atlantic Ocean in 'the world's toughest rowing race' in aid of Spinal Research, in so doing we hope to set the world record for the youngest four man crew ever to have crossed any ocean by rowing boat.

My crew mates for the challenge will be Adam Wolley, with whom I cycled a couple of thousand miles in Africa last year from Zambia to Cape Town, Ross Turner and his twin brother Hugo, who will be the first twins ever to have rowed any of the world's oceans.

We are all currently in our final year studying Industrial Design at Loughborough University, dividing our time between our studies, physical preparation for the event and our considerable fund raising efforts.



The Woodvale Atlantic Rowing Race was established in 1997, and since that date just over 200 people have completed the punishing crossing; far fewer than those who have reached the summit of Everest or experienced the weightlessness of space.

The race will start in La Gomera in the Canary Islands and finish in the Caribbean Island of Barbados. When bad weather and adverse conditions are factored in, most teams will row well over 3,000 miles during their Atlantic crossing, taking between two and three months to complete the challenge.

The crew will be rowing in a 29ft open hull, transatlantic rowing boat. Conditions on board will be extremely cramped and uncomfortable with little protection from the extreme weather,

including the 30ft+ swells that are quite common in the mid-Atlantic.

We aim to raise £150,000 for Spinal Research; the charity is particularly relevant to crew member Hugo, who broke his neck at the age of 17. Just to start the race we must raise £100,000, which pays for the boat and logistical back up. So far we have raised £40,000 and we are about to canvas corporate sponsorship in earnest having just completed our business plan, launched our website and commenced our PR blitz.

If you know of a corporate sponsor who may wish to become affiliated with our challenge to become the youngest crew to row the Atlantic,

please put them in touch through the website or with me directly at theatlantic4@gmail.com.

Please visit the website at www.theatlantic4.com for the latest news, you will also be able to follow our progress after we start the race on 6th December 2011, this date assumes favourable weather.

If you wish to make a personal contribution to Spinal Research in recognition of our challenge, please visit www.justgiving.com/theatlantic4.

Greg Symondson





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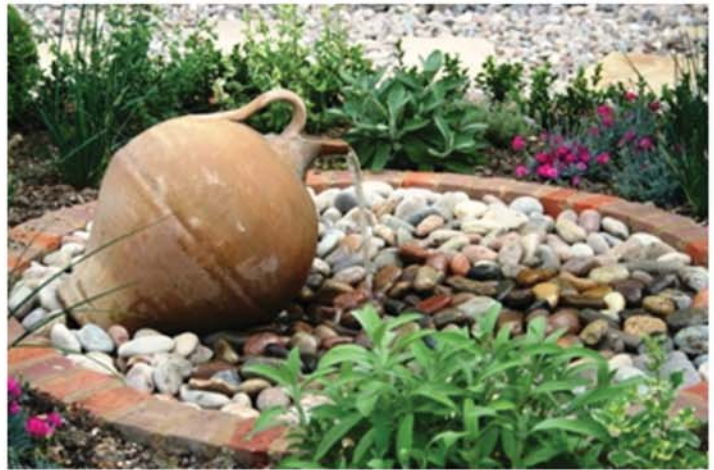
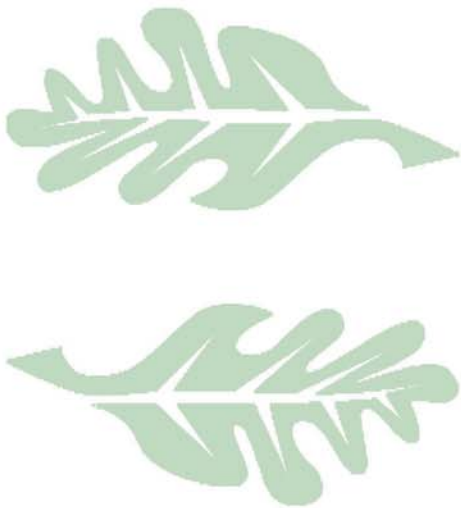
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... continued from page 17

things we had never had to consider before. By February we had found a script from the internet which we tweaked slightly. We then had to decide on songs, which to begin with sounded an easy thing, but when we listened to songs, although some of the lyrics were appropriate, they soon drifted into verses which had no bearing on the play. In the end, after listening to lots of songs we decided on those from Kool and the Gang, Jimmy Nail, Green Day, Oasis and Bread on Good Friday, with Poison and Meatloaf on the Easter morning.

With just 8 weeks to go, we collated our volunteer actors and actresses, together with those who were slightly (or majorly!) press ganged. Script learning and rehearsals followed quite regularly over those weeks. Musicians spent every weekend learning the tunes (and in some cases having to completely re-write the music). With three weeks to go we got the singers in!

In total around 60 men, women, children (and Percy the Pony) of the church took part in the acting, singing, playing, scenery, costume, hospitality, props and prayer for the event. Pat Cleaver organised the sound equipment and technical expertise on the Good Friday.

The first time that all the singers and musicians were together in totality was the same time that all the actors and actresses appeared together in totality, which was at 3.00pm on the Good Friday - when it was the real thing!

My husband and I would like to thank everyone involved in presenting the play on Good Friday that depicted the last hours of Jesus' life, beginning with Palm Sunday celebrations into Jerusalem, the Passover meal, the arrest and trial, and ultimately His crucifixion and death; and then on Easter morning concluding with the resurrection.

It proved that a small church was able to unite together to present a big thing. The time and commitment given by all those in the church, of all age groups from around 5 to 80 years was awesome.

Finally, how can we in England pass over the opportunity to mention the weather, but it was absolutely beautiful, which we were extremely grateful for as there was no shelter if it had been raining, just very wet people.

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO TOOK PART AND TO EVERYONE WHO CAME TO SUPPORT AND WATCH.

Speen WI Report

Our birthday party in April went swimmingly, as usual, with a buffet supper this time instead of our usual hot meal. Mrs Page was excellent with her 'Talking Hats' monologues and had us in fits of laughter.

Some members had attended the Council Meeting at the new theatre in Aylesbury and, after the business, were entertained by Pam Rhodes and Christopher Biggins - also some children had entertained with dancing and singing.

The Resolutions were discussed in May and proved difficult. Were we in favour of mega farms? Well, how big is mega? Some were in favour and some weren't. It would progress to the AGM in June.

We also hosted a County Ramble which was enjoyed by all who went and we were lucky to have a fine day. Everyone enjoyed the lasagne and apple crumble on their return.

Unfortunately Vivian Barrett who was going to talk about living with thalidomide, was unable to come at the last minute as her special car had broken down and we were unable to get another speaker in time for the meeting, so we just chatted over a cup of tea or coffee and cake.

Mrs Orford was very entertaining with A Pocket of Posies at the June meeting.

Some members had enjoyed a literary lunch with Katherine McMahon and were able to buy a book or two.

Our next meetings will be Trekking in Nepal, an open meeting on 4th August; Understanding Colour in your Home with Jane Dunsterville on 1st September and Fag Ends and Frustrations on 6th October - another open meeting.

We keep hoping some younger women in the village will join us. How about it?

Barbara Collett
488348

Down on the Farm



The beautiful spring weather we experienced in March and April has resulted in very early harvests of soft fruits and top fruits and growers are benefitting accordingly. Fortunately for us the change in conditions in May and June produced enough rain in this area to allow the cereal grains to develop well, so harvesting will begin at about the normal time. Many cereal growers in East Anglia were not so lucky and their yields are poor.

The weather is probably the most important factor for any crop growing farmer; so much so, that many soft fruit growers are now using polytunnels with raised beds inside so that the violent changes in weather can be eliminated and the water and nutrients controlled. There is the added benefit of picking at waist level instead of grovelling on the ground which has proved a simple way to double the output of the pickers. You will be pleased to hear that although the price of wheat has nearly doubled over the last few years, it is still not valuable enough to grow in tunnels!!

Like other organisations, we are worried that government cuts will have adverse effects on our viability. Farmers rely on their environment payments to stay in business and most agricultural accountants will tell you that without the environment payments farming would not be profitable. However, some help is emerging from unexpected quarters. The BBC's wildlife programmes are adopting a much more realistic attitude to nature. Viewers are now told the truth, such as the smallest owlet in a brood will be eaten by its siblings if food gets short. Perhaps soon they will show how many wild animals die from old age, injury or disease without food or water and no one to put them out of their misery. There have been changes in the RSPB management structure and they are now trying hard to work with farmers rather than blaming them for habitat loss. Both organisations have enormous public influence which we hope, given time, will convince everyone that 95% of farmers care about domestic and wild animals.

What a pity that at their annual conference the WI did not feel able to vote on the subject of large scale dairy farms. Although we may not like the idea of the large Californian factory farms, from the cows' point of view the conditions are ideal; a soft mattress to lie on, freedom to move around and go to the trough to eat whenever they wish, the close company of other cows (remember they are herd animals) and protection from the sun and rain, (our cows complain when they are turned out to grass on a rainy day). On large-scale units there is a resident vet so that treatment is available as soon as illness symptoms appear. Small farmers are unable to afford a vet unless symptoms are severe. The present state of the dairy is such that only farmers with large herds will survive unless the population is prepared to pay a realistic price for a 'pinta'. It has just been announced that the UK dairy farmers are now paid the lowest price/litre in Europe!

Gill Kent
gk@bfarms.co.uk

North Dean's Traditional "Breakfast on the Hill" 2011

The annual "Breakfast on the Hill" has had a few locations over the years and it was off to a new location for 2011. Just behind Old House Farm in upper North Dean is the imaginatively named "Home Field" and with magnificent views down North Dean Valley the traditional layout was set up at the top of the hill.



Over the years the morning BBQ has become more sophisticated and dare we say a little bit more posh. Gone is sitting in the grass dodging the gifts left by the cows and in has come chairs, tables and the latest word in gazebos. The latest trend in deck chairs was also in evidence, built in

drinks holder and cooler area; it's amazing what your local petrol station sells these days.

The other change for 2011 was the return of the traditional charcoal BBQ, cooking on charcoal really reminds you why everyone has gas ones these days but it does produce a unique cooking taste. The weather this year was absolutely fantastic, a far cry from some years on hill top typhoons.



The "rules" of the BBQ are very simple, people bring their own food, everything is cooked al fresco and then given to some else. It is always refreshing to know that if you have forgotten your black pudding someone will soon arrive with that vital missing breakfast component.

Thrusting a fresh bacon butty in the person's hand soon distracts them away from their recently delivered breakfast bits.

What is also great about the BBQ is the mixture of old and new. A lot of the people attending have been supporting Breakfast on the Hill, as well as many other events in North Dean, for many years but it was great to see new faces again this year. These events are a great way to meet your new neighbours and catch up on the local gossip at the same time.

It is always appreciated that Beechdean Farms allows Breakfast on the Hill to encamp around the farm so a big thank you for their support. Also a big thank you to Jez and Susie for their help; these events would not happen without people giving up their time to help set up, cook and tidy up.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year, we will keep you posted via leaflets, emails and now the North Dean website www.northdean-bucks.co.uk.

Andrew Howard
North Dean Village Hall Committee

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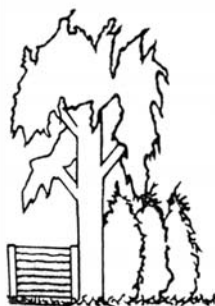
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Wildlife Watch by Peter Symonds

The Spring and early Summer months have again produced some interesting records.

Back in April visiting winter birds remained in good numbers in the village. On 7th April in my own garden there were some 12 Lesser Redpolls and 8 Bramblings. The Bramblings became increasingly colourful as their drab winter colours are replaced by full breeding plumage. Numbers of these birds declined as they returned to their breeding grounds in Scandinavia during April.



A Woodcock was seen in Great Hampden on 5th April and a pair of Mandarin ducks were noted at various local woodland and garden ponds looking for a nest site. A newly enlarged pond in our own garden attracted a Grass Snake in early May and subsequently a pair of Mallard took up residence. Periodically a rival male would fly in and immediately assault the female whilst trying to fend off her loyal mate. Mayhem ensued for several minutes. It became apparent that "our" Mallard were also visiting other garden ponds and that the female was subsequently incubating eggs elsewhere. In the early evening the

male duck would stand on the ridge of our house roof waiting for his partner to fly in. I subsequently became aware that a pair of Mallard lost 2 clutches of eggs in another garden eventually hatching 8 chicks at a third attempt.

Both Red Kites and Buzzards have successfully fledged young from nests in and around the village. The Red Kite have actually reared one young from a nest in a garden in the village, and I believe this to be a first. One pair of Buzzards hatched two young but I watched helplessly one morning as one of the young chicks, covered in fluffy grey down, fell some 40 feet from the nest.

There have been reports of Roe Deer from different sides of the village whilst Hares have been noted to the west of the village. The best entomological record is thanks to George Butler who found a huge Privet Hawk Moth on his cottage in late June.

New and updated photographs of our wildlife will be featured in the Festival event: "Wildlife in Speen" on Tuesday 13th September



Please let me know of any interesting sightings.

Peter Symonds 01494 488016, or email: symonds@speen10.freemove.co.uk

Short Story

Written for the Creative Writing Workshop, SpeenFest 2009

The Eagle and the Bluefish

A fat August sun was melting into the pine woods above the Ducktrap River as I surveyed the expanse of Wales Beach exposed by a big ebb tide. Opportunistic gulls patrolled the water line searching for quahogs which they grabbed with their beaks and wheeled up into the air, dropping the clams from height to split them with consummate cleverness. Terns mined the shallow water on the sandbar for sandeels buried in the silt, while the higher thermals allowed a pair of ospreys to float across the bay, searching for flatfish, their plaintive mews belying their deadly purpose.

Instinctively my hand reached for the spinning rod which leaned up against the garden table in state of permanent readiness and I made some weak excuse to avoid helping with dinner and set out single mindedly to fish the point. The tide was now at its low and the remains of an ancient fish trap poked through the sand like the bleached jaw bone of a sperm whale. A physical reminder of the people who used to inhabit the wooded shoreline of Maine and a metaphorical reminder of the leviathans that used to roam these deep waters in such abundance. Phosphorescence showered from my boots as I reached the kelp strewn rocks, illuminating colonies of starfish that clung to this fecund shoreline. I clambered up the steep rock face that led to the point and walked through silent pinewoods to find the deep water favoured by the lobster fishermen. My foot fell on a dead branch and the sharp crack caused something huge to lift skyward. As it glided across the bay, the ospreys mobbed the bird which seemed unperturbed by its smaller cousins. National emblem but still persecuted, a bald eagle drifted into the gloaming. At the base of its perch I found fish bones, sea urchins and a rabbit's skull.

With the light fading and the promise to be back by 8.00pm, I scrambled onwards through the undergrowth until emerging scratched and bitten at a finger of rock that pushed out into the ocean. A strong current hugged the rocks and ushered the flooding tide into the bay where the sand bar had now disappeared and the terns would be joined by nocturnal striped bass looking to feast in preparation for their autumn run south to

Chesapeake Bay. My spinner shot out finding clear water between the ropes of two lobster pots and I retrieved methodically, watching the last ferry take the rich and famous back to Isleboro and the lights of Lincolnville town sparkle into life. A sliver of moon rose above the Ducktrap River and a salmon looking to return to its natal stream crashed in the bay, waiting for autumn rains to make its urgent run to this tiniest and most precious river. I wondered how on earth smolts falling back from the Ducktrap could run the gauntlet of the bay without falling victim to one of its multifarious predators.

Such human musings were violently interrupted as my rod leached over and the 20lb test pulled inexorably off the reel. Bluefish! Head down, propelled by its giant forked tail, it was not for turning and disaster loomed as the fish approached one of the lobster buoys. I screwed down the clutch and simply held one with the rod arced like a rainbow connecting land and ocean. I gained some line, the fish battling for every inch of advantage over me as I pushed my boots hard against the barnacles, a human limpet battling a fish that had yet to break sweat. After what seemed a lifetime, the fish boiled twenty yards offshore, its blue-grey back breaking surface and its spade like tail sending it off on yet another break for freedom. Time and again, line would rip uncontrollably from the reel and the gears in my reel began to slip in submission to the power of the fish. Eventually I spied the wire trace slice through the oily surface of the sea and I reached out and grabbed it, hauling the fish clear and up onto the rocks in one heroic movement. The bent hooks of my toby slipped from the fish's mouth and my prize struggled seaward motivated by a life force rooted deep in primeval times. Securing its head with my boot, I grasped the fish's tail, careful not to get my hands anywhere near its vice like jaws, which were jewelled with a row of jagged teeth that eviscerate all in its path. I dispatched the fish with little compunction, using a convenient priest-shaped rock to crack its heavy skull. In death, the fish's yellow, elephantine eye gazed back at me. I admired its silvery blue flank and tail that no propulsion engineer could ever hope to match in the beauty and purpose of its design. A single minded killing machine lay before me and I felt that the sea was safer for its removal and that perhaps the hapless smolts of the Ducktrap would now have an easier passage. I carried my trophy home, having satisfied some deep atavistic urge to hunt and kill. In the half light of dusk I filleted the fish down on an altar-like boulder on the beach, leaving the carcass as an offering to the creatures of the night.

Next morning I took my binoculars to search for the eagle. His white head gave away his presence in the tall pine on the point. Again the ospreys mobbed the eagle who lifted from his perch and circled the bay before swooping down to collect the remains of the bluefish in an effortless and elegant movement. The fish all of a sudden looked small in the eagle's talons, not the remains of a 12lb monster that had fought me to the edge of my world last evening. Later in the day I ventured out to the point and at the foot of the eagle's tree I found the jaws of the fish, picked clean, and the savage beauty of its teeth was plain to see. "A life subdued to its instrument" to steal a verse from Ted Hughes. I returned with this grisly momento and remembered how Frank Mundus had bleached the jaws of great white sharks in the "Slick of the Cricket" and did the same on a miniature scale. As I write on a cold January day, I look at this relic and recall a magical evening in Maine and an encounter with an eagle and a bluefish.

Alastair Blundell

From the children of Speen Church of England School

Lily Bowen and Emily O'Brien have written about their School Trip to London

On Tuesday 28th June Year One and Year Two went on a school trip to London and a big and long coach. We had lunch in the park. Then we went to the Royal Festival Hall and listened to the lovely loud music of the timpani, strings, saxophones, trumpets and cymbals. Because we sat at the back we had a very good view. (The show was amazing.) Then we had to wait ten minutes for the coach to come. On the way back we got in traffic so it took from 1:45pm to 3:20pm, one hour thirty-five minutes to get back to school.

by Lily and Emily

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front elevation before



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North Dean Fete

Letters to the Editor

Safer Routes For Horses

SR4H

Walkers in parts of Monkton Wood, and looking along Bryants Bottom from the crossroads, may have noticed this painted in green on some trees, and wondered what it means. Two years ago, Val Firth, from Great Hampden, and I approached the Hampden Estate to see if there was any possibility of establishing some short tracks, to link with bridleways and side roads, to enable riders to avoid two stretches of road which have become increasingly dangerous for horses. These are Hampden Road, especially on the bend, and Bryants Bottom, between the Hampden crossroads and its junction with Spring Coppice Lane. Both these roads carry an increasing amount of fast traffic, and on both roads riders have experienced some very frightening "near misses". A survey indicated that 115 horses are kept and ridden in the immediate area, not including retired and youngstock.

Lord Hollenden, and Swynfen Parker-Jarvis, of the estate, looked favourably upon the idea, and planning, and fund-raising commenced. Many will have noticed a cleared track running in the woodland, alongside Bryants Bottom; the other track enters Monkton Wood just past the existing gate (by Cedar Cottage), and runs along a track cleared by the estate staff to join the bridleway which runs through the wood to the cross roads. Incidentally, although many of us have walked this track recently, it is not, and never has been, a footpath, either statutory or permissive. It is worth pointing out that in addition to the existing statutory footpaths there are now 15 miles of permissive footpaths on the Hampden estate. These new horse tracks bring the total of permissive horse tracks to about 2 miles. Riders are paying for an annual permit to use the tracks, the money will fund maintenance, and tree safety surveys, one of which has already been completed, together with gates and some fencing and markers. Costs are £30 for an individual and £50 for a family permit. Riders have a list of rules etc., and are asked to be especially careful if pedestrians are nearby. The track in Monkton Wood does not impinge upon either the existing footpath or the permissive tracks. Riders have been made aware of the footpath which crosses the track in Bryants Bottom.

The tracks are "Permissive Horse tracks" only and as already stated are being financed by the riders. They are not statutory bridleways, and are therefore not available to cyclists. We hope that dog walkers will make every effort to keep dogs away from horses. All permit holders are issued with a saddle tag and a bright orange tabard with SR4H printed on them. This aids safety and

means that those entitled to use the tracks can be easily identified.

Although the idea is to enable riders to get away from some sections of road, this does not mean that you will not see horses on those roads again, if the ground becomes very wet the estate reserves the right to close the tracks temporarily to prevent the ground becoming poached and dangerous.

The administration of the scheme is under the auspices of Naphill Riding Club, with Val and I licensed by the estate to collect subscriptions, issue permits and place informative notices on the relevant gates. All monies received can only be used for "Safer Routes for Horses" and neither we nor Naphill Riding Club receive any payment for this!

There has been very encouraging support for the scheme, and we hope you will agree with us that this initiative will help to contribute to everyone's safety.

Jackie Edwards

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District Council News – August 2011



HS2

For those who went on the protest walk to Coombe Hill on Sunday 12th July, well done! It was a good turn out and made the local TV news, with around 500 taking part giving a strong message to Government. Although I was not able to take part due to prior commitments, Paul Rogerson, our County Councillor, was there to represent the area.

On 29th July the Government Consultation website closed and I hope everybody took the opportunity to register their comments. Although the questions were slanted towards a positive response, I am sure you all pointed out the serious flaws in the project and gave it a big 'thumbs down'. The next major milestone will be the announcement of the Transport Select Committee report into HS2 and then, later this year, the Consultation findings. We will continue to provide updates via the website, www.speenbucks.org.uk/hs2.

It is important to keep lobbying MP's about the proposals, so if you have family or friends who live off the line then ask if they can contact their MP to put the case against the current scheme. A good starting point is that it will cost each and every parliamentary seat in the country £51m which could be used for better things!

District Council News

On 5th May, the District Elections took place, and I would like to thank the many people who supported the campaign and those who put an 'X' against my name! I'd also like to thank Paul Rogerson for the excellent job he has done over the past 12 years, and I look forward to representing your interests as District Councillor.

For those readers in North Dean, I realise I am not your Councillor, but hopefully you will find my comments of some use.

Following the election, there was a change of leadership in Wycombe District Council, with Alex Collingwood taking over from Lesley Clarke. The new Cabinet is getting down to business, addressing the key issues which face the District. These include ensuring that Council Tax is spent wisely and not increased, managing the transfer of

Council housing to the Red Kite Housing association, continuing to protect the Green Belt, and dealing with the thorny subject of the Wycombe Stadium development.

By the time you read this article, it will be old news that WDC decided on 18th July to cancel the current Stadium development plans. As a passionate believer in protection of the Green Belt and having campaigned for low Council Taxes and spending efficiency within the Council, I supported this decision. The Business Case did not represent good use of Council funds; neither could the very special circumstances needed to allow 200 acres of Green Belt land to be built on be satisfied.

I am becoming actively involved in several Council projects to ensure that rural issues and requirements are not disproportionately overshadowed by High Wycombe town considerations. I have been appointed to the Improvement and Review Commission, looking into the District Budget, and intend to play an active part in the various discussions and decisions that will take place in the coming months.

An excellent example of local community action I would like to draw to your attention (and for which I seek no credit) is the Risborough Community Bus service, which now operates a Lacey Green and Speen route on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The bus travels around Studridge Lane, passes The King William IV at 9:05 am and then travels along Hampden Road, arriving in Princes Risborough at 9:29. As the service operates as a 'hail and ride', the bus can be stopped anywhere along the route for added convenience. The return journey leaves Princes Risborough at 11:30, getting back to The King William around 11:45, so it is ideal for shopping or a cup of coffee in the town. Most concessionary passes are accepted, otherwise the cost is £2.00 each way, children under 5 are free and children 5-15 cost £1.00 each way.

The Risborough Community Bus won the 2011 Action for Market Towns Award for Social and Community services, outstanding recognition for a superb local service. For more details, please contact Reg Taylor on 488500.

If you would like to contact me concerning any District Council matters, my email address is mel_foster@wycombe.gov.uk and my telephone number is 488905.

*Mel Foster
District Councillor
Lacey Green, Speen & The Hampdens*

County Council News – August 2011



Council Administration

Whilst there were no County Council elections this year there has been a major change within the administration. David Shakespeare, who has led the council for ten years, was replaced by Martin Tett and a new cabinet was put in place. What this means is that with new leadership comes new direction. This was immediately seen by the announcement that more money, circa £5M, would be released for road repairs this year with more to follow in the next.

Road Repairs

Following this announcement a programme of major road repairs has been identified. Discussion took place with the local members for each Council Division to identify five priority roads for repair. For my Division this has been difficult as it covers seven parishes and has more than seventy roads, many of which do not conform to the standard you would expect. The choice was clear that only those roads which carry substantial volumes of traffic and/or were in poor condition could be considered. The roads eventually chosen are: Bryants Bottom Road, Hampden; Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge; Wigans Lane, Bledlow; Haw Lane, Bledlow; Glade Road/Honor End Lane, Hampden; and Cadsden Road, Cadsden.

This does add to six but as some are shared with other Divisions an exception was agreed. I would apologise if your road is not on the list but this does not mean that repairs will not be done. In addition to this programme, work on smaller scale repairs is scheduled for: Flowers Bottom Lane, Speen; Wendover Road, Butlers Cross; Ellesborough Road, Butlers Cross; Rignal Road, Hampden. Work to repair dangerous pot holes and other defects will also continue so please report any you see. The number to call is 0845 230 2882 or go online at www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport where you can also report problems and track the work.

Day Care in Princes Risborough

Following consultation about the proposed changes to Day Care Services and in particular the proposal to close the Centre in Princes Risborough, the County Council agreed to look at alternative community proposals to provide a service in Princes Risborough. Taking up the Big Society initiative the Cabinet agreed in March, that the local

community in Princes Risborough would be given first option to run services in and from the Day Centre building.

A lot of work has taken place to develop a business case, with support from officers from the Council, and this has now been given approval by Cabinet members, subject to the formal sign up of five parties (which includes Princes Risborough Town Council) who will establish a Social Enterprise Trust to run the service. This is really good news for our area and means that a range of services will be continued to be provided.

Academy bid for the Upper School

Following the Government announcement that all schools would be allowed to bid for academy status the Upper School in Princes Risborough has taken advantage of the offer. As a governor at the school I have supported this bid as it does give greater flexibility to manage budgets and set the direction of study for the students. As with all change there is a degree of uncertainty about the future, but what is clear is that to remain within local authority control would mean less funding for the school and therefore less resources for teaching and learning. It has been stressed that the basic day to day teaching will not be changed and outwardly the school will remain much the same. The name will remain, as will the staff. What will have changed is that the school will have become independent and will be managing its own budget directly funded from the Government.

The final decision will be made in July to proceed with the bid with the outcome known before the start of the new academic year in September.

Fire Authority – First Responders

This is really good news for us in rural parts. Following the Regional Review of the Ambulance Service, opportunities were identified for other agencies to fill some gaps identified where attendance times for ambulance crews were not meeting targets. The Fire and Rescue Service (F&R) in Hampshire were asked to give evidence and from this demonstrated how they were providing a First Responder service in areas which had restricted ambulance cover. From this a pilot scheme has been established in Amersham by Bucks F&R which is proving successful. Building on this it is intended that Princes Risborough Station will be joining the scheme later this year.

If you have a concern about County Council services my email address is progerson@buckscc.gov.uk and my telephone number is 488315. So if you would like to contact me, I will do what I can to help.

*Paul Rogerson
County Councillor*

Speen and North Dean News - Chair	Gloria Holmes	488420
Speen and North Dean News - advertising	Peter Cooper	488975
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Speen Fete - Secretary	Nicki Pitt	488713
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Speen & North Dean Guides	Pauline Hall	488372
Speen School - Head	Denise Nayna	488321
Speen School PTA	Debbie O'Brien	488734
Speen Marquee	John Holmes	488420
Speen & North Dean Toddler Group	Helen Davies	489847
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Speen Playing Fields Chairman	Andy Thompson	488524
Riding for the Disabled	Gloria Holmes	488420
The Speen Group	TBD	
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Speen Tennis Court - Secretary	Cherry Seekins	488355
Speen Village Hall - Chairman	Bill Groves	488180
Speen Village Hall - Bookings	Sue Taylor	488500
Speen WI - Secretary	Barbara Collett	488348
North Dean Village Hall - Chairman	Andrew Howard	562775
North Dean Village Hall - Secretary	Julie White	562311
North Dean Village Hall - Bookings Secretary	Megan Chinn	563074
Pigotts 7 '48' Musical Evenings	Nick Wheeler-Robinson	562167
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Lacey Green Parish Council - Chairman	Cathryn Davies	01844 342800
Lacey Green Parish Council - Councillor for Speen Ward	Roger Craft	488343
Wycombe District Council - Member for Lacey Green & Hampdens	Mel Foster	488905
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